

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

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R 242100Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1741

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3831

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN GT

SUBJECT: OPIC - FINANING FOR GREENHOUSE PROJECT

REF: STATE 120097

1. REF. COMPANY, PLANTADORES ORNAMENTALES UNIDAS S.A., FAVORABLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY. OUR RECORDS HOWEVER INDICATE THAT IT WAS OWNED BY SUN STATE PLANT GROWERS INC. OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AND PERHAPS THEREAFTER BY A SUBSIDIARY OF STRATFORD OF TEXAS CALLED UNITED HORTICULTURE INC. (NOT GREEN THUMB CORP.).

2. COMPANY'S STANDING IN BUSINESS COMMUNITY UNDERSTOOD TO BE GOOD. WORLD TRADER'S DATA REPORT WILL BE DONE AND SUBMITTED BY CABLE, WITH A COPY TO OPIC. RESULTS EXPECTED TO BE FAVORABLE.

3. PROPOSED \$1 MILLION EXPANSION PROJECT WILL APPARENTLY MORE THAN DOUBLE CUT-FLOWER PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF COMPANY AND ALSO RAISE EMPLOYEMENT LEVEL FROM 120 IN 1972 TO 560. PRODUCTION INCREASE IN IMPORTANT RESOURCE IN GUATEMALA, GENERATION OF EMPLOYMENT, AND PROPOSED OPENING OF NEW EXPORT MARKET IN EUROPE (AS AGAINST PREVIOUS EXPLOITATION LARGELY OF US MARKET) COMBINE TOGETHER INTO WHAT WOULD SEEM TO BE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF GUATEMALA. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FURTHER FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY OPIC OF COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR FINANCING.

ANDREWS

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